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(56) Documents cited

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GB A 2020555	EP A2 0081109
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(58) Field of search

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## (54) Therapeutic aid

(57) A therapeutic aid in the form of a bandage, a sleeping requisite such as pillow 10 for support of a user's head or an article of clothing such as a glove and comprising means for creating a permanent magnetic field. A pillow has a plurality of spaced-apart parallel permanent magnets 14 sandwiched between foam blocks (11) 12 which induce or would appear to induce sleep and/or suppresses respiratory ailments such as asthma. A bandage (figs 3, 4) is attachable around injured parts of the user's body, such as joints, so that the magnetic field brings relief of the injury. The magnets are pliable strips eg. of plastics or rubber bound barium ferrite.

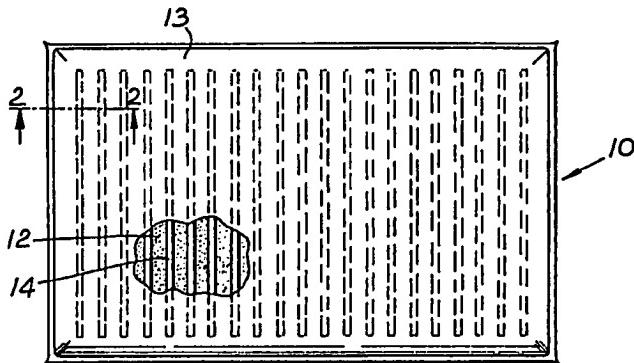


Fig. 1

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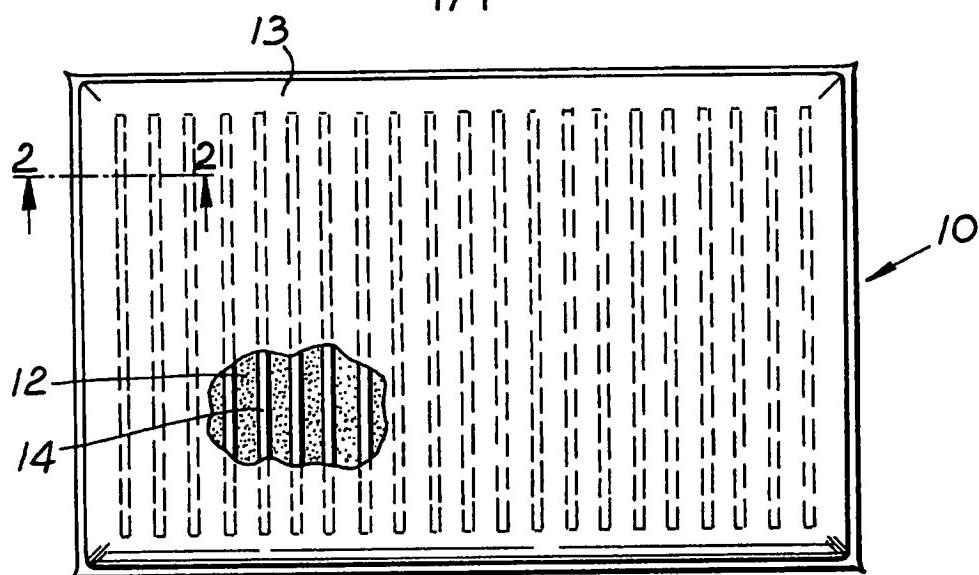


Fig. 1

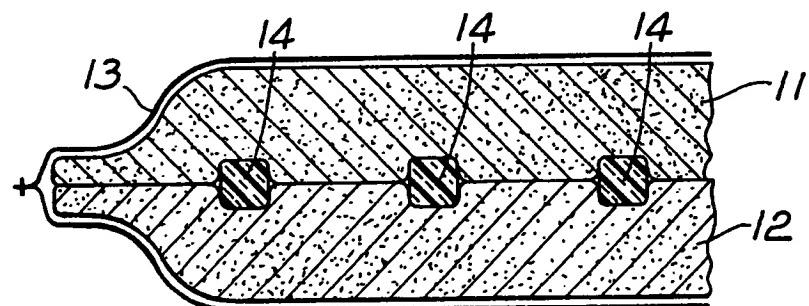


Fig. 2

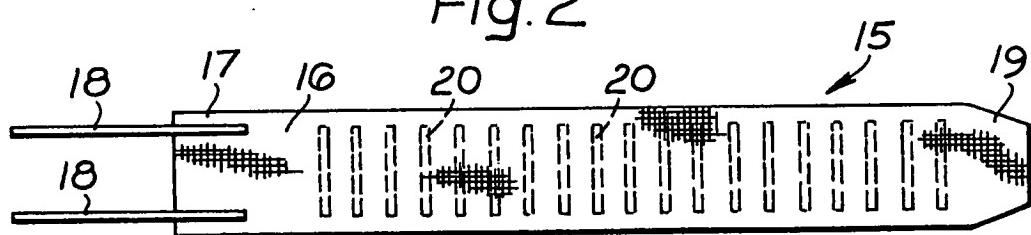


Fig. 3

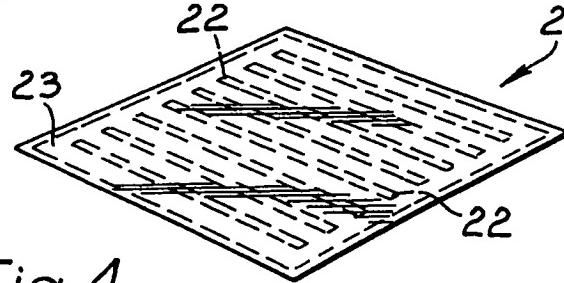


Fig. 4

## SPECIFICATION

## Therapeutic aid

5 This invention concerns a therapeutic aid.  
The therapeutic aid of the present invention may  
be in the form of a bandage of the kind which  
serves to apply pressure to or for the immobilisa-  
tion of an injured part of the human body, particu-  
larly injured joints such as the knee joint or the  
elbow joint.

Alternatively, it may be in the form of a sleeping  
requisite of the kind which serves to support a  
user's head, or back, or other part of the body, or  
15 which includes a portion which serves to support  
as aforesaid, thereof being in the nature of a pil-  
low, bolster, cushion, head rest, back rest or mat-  
tress.

Yet still said therapeutic aid may be in the form  
20 of a glove or other hand held article for wearing or  
for use for cleaning, dusting or polishing as the  
case may be.

Whatever the particular form of the therapeutic  
aid, the invention has as an object to provide a  
25 therapeutic aid which possesses or would appear  
to possess improved therapeutic properties in that  
as a bandage it promotes rapid healing of injury,  
or as a glove or hand held article it promotes relief  
of minor injuries and rheumatism in the hands, or  
30 as a sleeping requisite it induces sleep and/or sup-  
presses respiratory ailments such as asthma and/or  
promotes rapid healing of injury.

With this object in view the present invention  
provides a therapeutic aid in any of the forms as  
35 aforesaid characterised in that said aid incorpo-  
rates or embodies means for creating a static mag-  
netic field.

Advantageously, the means creating a static  
magnetic field comprises magnets of various  
40 forms. For example, the means may comprise a  
plurality of permanent magnets in bar, rod, disc or  
other form disposed at random or in a predeter-  
mined pattern within the body of the aid.

Preferably said means comprises a plurality of  
45 permanent magnets each in the form of a pliable  
strip e.g. composed of plastic-bound or rubber-  
bound barium ferrite. These strips may then be ar-  
ranged side-by-side so as to be approximately par-  
allel to one another. In the case where such strips  
50 each have one pole to one face of the strip and the  
other pole to the other face, they are preferably ar-  
ranged with the poles alternating, that is to say  
with the upwardly-facing poles of adjacent mag-  
nets differing and similarly the downwardly-facing  
55 poles of adjacent magnets differing.

The invention will be described further, by way  
of example, with reference to the accompanying  
drawings in which:-

*Figure 1* is a plan view of a first preferred em-  
60 bodiment of the therapeutic aid of the present in-  
vention;

*Figure 2* is cross-sectional view on the line 2-2 of  
*Figure 1*;

*Figure 3* is a plan view of a second preferred  
65 embodiment of the therapeutic aid of the present

invention; and

*Figure 4* is a perspective view of a third pre-  
ferred embodiment of the therapeutic aid of the  
present invention.

70 Referring firstly to Figures 1 and 2, the first pre-  
ferred embodiment of the therapeutic aid is illus-  
trated therein as being in the form of a sleeping  
requisite, being more particularly a pillow 10.

The pillow 10 comprises as its filling two square  
75 or rectangular blocks 11 and 12 of airated foam,  
typically each of the dimensions 46cm x 30cm x 2  
cm. The foam blocks 11, 12 sandwich between  
them permanent magnets in the form of flexible  
80 square cross-section, elongate bars 14 composed  
of plastic-bound or rubber-bound barium ferrite.

The bars 14 are arranged side-by-side and  
spaced-apart at regular intervals along the length  
of the pillow 10, so that said strips are substan-  
tially parallel. Each bar 14 has one pole to one face  
85 and the other pole to the other face so that the  
poles alternate, that is to say with the upwardly-  
facing poles of adjacent bar magnets differing and  
the downwardly facing poles differing.

The foam blocks 11, 12 are attached together by  
90 means of adhesive on part or all of their mutually  
confronting surfaces, with the bars 14 being de-  
pressed into the blocks 11, 12 upon attachment of  
the blocks 11, 12. The blocks 11, 12 are encased by  
a covering of, for example, cotton such as calico.

95 The rods 14 provide a uniform magnetic field  
around the pillow 10 so that the pillow 10 pos-  
sesses or would appear to possess improved ther-  
apeutic properties in that it induces sleep and/or  
suppresses respiratory ailments such as asthma.

100 Referring now to Figure 3, the second preferred  
embodiment of the therapeutic aid is in the form of  
a bandage 15 of the kind which serves to apply  
pressure to or for immobilisation of an injured part  
of the human body, particularly injured joints.

105 The bandage 15 is of substantially the same con-  
struction as the pillow 10 as afore-described, but,  
of course, its dimensions are suitably different. The  
bandage 15 is elongate, being dimensionally of  
much greater length than width. Its thickness is  
110 much less than the thickness of the pillow 10.

The bandage's cover 16, encasing its foam  
blocks (not shown), is made of a suitably absorb-  
ent material, e.g. a towelling material. The ends of  
115 the bandage 15 are provided with fastening means  
in that one end 17 has two strips 18 of velcro ma-  
terial attachable to the other end 19 of the bandage  
15.

The foam blocks of the bandage 15 sandwich be-  
tween them the permanent magnets which in this  
120 embodiment are pliable strips 20, shown in outline  
in Figure 3. The strips 20 are again composed of  
plastics-bound or rubber-bound barium ferrite.

The strips 20 within the bandage 15 create a  
magnetic field therearound which gives or appears  
125 to give the bandage 15 therapeutic properties  
which promotes rapid healing of the injury.

In use, the bandage 15 can be wrapped around  
the wrist, the elbow joint, the knee joint, the shoul-  
der joint or the neck.

130 Referring lastly to Figure 4, the third preferred

embodiment of the therapeutic aid illustrated therein is in the form of a hand-held cleaning article or duster 21 for cleaning, polishing or dusting. The duster 21 incorporates some of the features of 5 the embodiments of Figures 1 and 2, and Figure 3.

The duster 21 is substantial square in shape and comprises a sandwich of two airated foam blocks (not shown) and, between the blocks, permanent magnets in the form of elongate pliable strips 22 10 (shown in outline). The duster 21 has an outer cover 23 of hard wearing material.

The overall thickness of the duster 21 is such as to make it flexible enough for good cleaning and polishing of articles.

15 As it is intended that the duster 21 should be held in the hand, because of the presence of the pliable magnet strips 22 (arranged side-by-side) there is promoted, or would appear to be promoted, the relief of minor injuries and/or rheumatism in the hand.

## CLAIMS

1. A therapeutic aid in any of the forms as 25 aforesaid characterised in that said aid incorporates or embodies means for creating a static magnetic field.
2. An aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for creating a static magnetic field comprises magnets of various forms.
3. An aid as claimed in claims 1 and 2, wherein the means comprises a plurality of permanent magnets in bar, rod, disc or other form disposed at random or in a predetermined pattern within the 35 body of the aid.
4. An aid as claimed in claims 1 and 2, wherein the means comprises a plurality of permanent magnets each in the form of a pliable strip.
5. An aid as claimed in any of claim 4 wherein 40 the strips are arranged side-by-side so as to be approximately parallel to one another.
6. An aid as claimed in claim 5 wherein the strips are arranged with their poles alternating, that is to say with the upwardly-facing poles of adjacent magnets differing and similarly with the downwardly-facing poles of adjacent magnets differing.
7. An aid as claimed in any preceding claim 45 wherein said aid also comprises as its filling two square or rectangular blocks of airated foam sandwiching between them the permanent magnets.
8. An aid as claimed in claim 7 wherein the blocks of foam are attached together by means of adhesive on part or all of their mutually confronting surfaces, with the magnets being depressed into the blocks upon attachment of the blocks.
9. An aid as claimed in any preceding claim 55 wherein the magnets are composed of plastics-bound or rubber-bound barium ferrite.

10. A therapeutic aid substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, or in Figure 3, or in Figure 4, of the accompanying drawings.

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